

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

3025 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-3025
Telephone 919-743-9000
Fax 919-743-9099

REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

DECEDENT

Document Identifier B201804298
Autopsy Type ME Autopsy
Name DeAndre Marquise Ballard
Age 23 yrs
Race Black
Sex M

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By Julie Ann Hull MD **Received From** Durham

ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam 09/24/2018 **Time of Exam** 09:30
Autopsy Facility Office of the Chief Medical Examiner **Persons Present** Ms. Ariana DiDomenico (Autopsy Technician)

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death

Multiple gunshot wound(s)

The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Digitally signed by

Julie Ann Hull MD 29 March 2019 10:57

DIAGNOSES

I. Perforating gunshot wound of right forearm

- A. Entrance: Right posterior forearm with associated soot ring and gunpowder particles
- B. Exit: Right anterior forearm
- C. Path: Perforation of skin, subcutaneous tissue, and musculature
- D. Projectile: None
- E. Direction: Frontward and upward without appreciable left/right deviation

II. Penetrating gunshot wound of left lower abdomen/groin

- A. Entrance: Left lower abdomen/groin, no soot or stippling
- B. Projectile Lodgement: Left pelvic side wall
- C. Path: Perforation of skin, subcutaneous tissue, and musculature of the left lower abdomen/groin, transection of left common iliac vein with extensive associated soft tissue hemorrhage and 400 mL hemoperitoneum
- D. Projectile: Deformed, copper-colored, jacketed projectile with a grey metal core
- E. Direction: Backward without appreciable up/down or left/right deviation

III. No contributory natural disease

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified By

Visual

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Length 79 inches
Weight 159 pounds
Body Condition Intact

The body is received in a zipped body bag labeled with a tag inscribed with "Kerrigan Road-Aunknown". In addition, an identification tag with the same inscription encircles the right great toe.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS: In the left ear is a yellow metal earring. Encircling the neck is a yellow metal chain with a yellow metal cross pendant.

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION:

1. A cervical collar encircles the neck.
2. An endotracheal tube enters the mouth.
3. Electrocardiogram pads (x6) are on the chest and abdomen.
4. Bilateral thoracotomy tubes are in place.
5. Single-lumen intravenous catheters insert into the bilateral antecubital fossae.
6. A triple-lumen intravenous catheter inserts into the right groin.
7. Bilateral intraosseous catheters insert into the anterior lower legs.
8. Plastic tape and medical gauze overlies the gunshot wound of the left lower abdomen/groin.

The body is that of a normally developed, well-nourished, dark-complexioned man appearing consistent with the listed age. The length is 70", and the weight is 159 lbs. as received. The body is cold, well-preserved, and has not been embalmed. Rigor mortis is fully developed in the jaw and extremities. Livor mortis is purple, fixed, and in a posterior distribution.

The curly, black scalp hair measures up to 1/4" in length. The irides are brown, the corneas are cloudy, and the sclerae are white. The bulbar and palpebral conjunctivae are free of petechiae. The ears are normally formed and without drainage. Each earlobe has one apparent piercing. The nose is intact, and the nares are unobstructed. The lips are normally formed. The superior and inferior frenula are intact. The anterior teeth are natural and in fair condition. No oral mucosal injuries are identified. The neck is normally formed, symmetrical, and without evidence of injury.

The chest is normally formed, symmetrical, and without palpable masses. The abdomen is flat, soft, and without palpable masses. A gunshot wound of the left lower abdomen/groin is described below. The external genitalia are those of an adult male with the testes palpable in the scrotum. The back is straight and symmetrical. The anus is atraumatic.

The arms are normally formed. A gunshot wound of the right forearm is described below. No track marks or ventral wrist scars are identified. The hands are examined prior to washing and have no soot, stippling, or gunpowder particles. The finger pads and palms are covered with black material consistent with fingerprinting ink. The fingernails are trimmed and relatively clean with overhangs up to 1/16". The legs are normally formed without amputation, deformity, or edema. The thick, dark toenails are clean and have overhangs up to 1 1/4".

IDENTIFYING MARKS, SCARS, AND TATTOOS: On the left flank is a 1/4" linear, horizontally-oriented, hyperpigmented scar. On the left anterior upper leg is a 5 1/2" linear, obliquely-oriented, well-healed, hypopigmented scar.

INJURIES

The body has two gunshot wounds (one perforating and one penetrating). All directions are in reference to the standard anatomic position.

PERFORATING GUNSHOT WOUND OF RIGHT FOREARM

ENTRANCE: On the right posterior forearm, centered 19" below the top of the shoulder, is a 3/8" in diameter round entrance gunshot wound with circumferential margin of abrasion measuring up to 1/16" and a circumferential ring of soot extending 3/8" along the superior margin and 1/4" along the medial, inferior, and lateral margins. Within the soot ring are a few yellow, granular gunpowder particles.

EXIT: On the right anterior forearm, centered 17 3/4" below the top of the head, is a 1 3/8" V-shaped, slit-like exit gunshot wound with margins that reapproximate without persistent defect.

PATH: The projectile perforated the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and musculature of the right forearm without injury to

the underlying bones or major vasculature.

PROJECTILE: No projectile or projectile fragments are recovered in association with this wound.

DIRECTION: The direction of the projectile's travel was frontward and upward without appreciable left/right deviation.

PENETRATING GUNSHOT WOUND OF LEFT LOWER ABDOMEN/GROIN

ENTRANCE: On the left lower abdomen/groin, centered 33" below the top of the head and 1 1/2" to the left of anterior midline is a 3/4" in diameter round entrance gunshot wound with circumferential margin of abrasion measuring up to 1/8" and a surrounding, ill-defined, red-purple contusion. No soot, stippling, or gunpowder particles are seen in association with the wound. No overlying articles of clothing were received with the body for examination.

PROJECTILE LODGEMENT: The projectile lodged in the deep skeletal musculature of the left pelvic side wall.

PATH: The projectile perforated the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and musculature of the left lower abdominal/groin wall and transected the left common iliac vein with extensive associated soft tissue hemorrhage before lodging in the deep skeletal muscle of the left pelvic side wall. Associated with the wound is 400 mL of liquid blood within the abdominal cavity.

PROJECTILE: A deformed, copper-colored, jacketed projectile with a grey metal core is recovered, labeled "Projectile recovered from left pelvic side wall", and retained as evidence.

DIRECTION: The direction of the projectile's travel was backward without appreciable up/down or left/right deviation.

OTHER INJURIES

On the left anterior hip is a 2 x 1" ill-defined, irregular, purple-black contusion.

DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EVIDENCE

The following items are released with the body

No items are released with the body.

The following items are preserved as evidence

A blood card, pulled scalp hair, the recovered projectile, and the personal effects as listed above are collected as evidence and released to Jessica Anzalone of the Durham Police Department on 12/5/18.

PROCEDURES

Radiographs

Postmortem radiographs are taken and reveal one radiopacity in the pelvis corresponding to the recovered projectile and several minute radiopacities in the right forearm (not recovered) consistent with fragments.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body Cavities

The abdominal fat layer measures up to 1 cm in thickness. The chest cavities and pericardial sac contain no hemorrhage or excess fluid. The abdominal cavity contains approximately 400 mL of liquid and clotted blood. The serosal surfaces are smooth, glistening, and without adhesions. The organs are normally located. The diaphragm is intact.

Cardiovascular System

Heart Weight 350 grams

The heart has a normal shape with a smooth, glistening epicardium. The coronary arteries have a normal origin and distribution with co-dominance. The coronary arteries have no atherosclerotic stenosis and are widely patent.

The myocardium is red-brown, firm, and uniform without focal fibrosis, softening, or hyperemia. The ventricles are not dilated or hypertrophied. The right ventricle, left ventricle, and interventricular septum measure 0.2 cm, 1.2 cm, and 1.1 cm in thickness, respectively.

The endocardium is intact, smooth, and glistening. The cardiac valve leaflets are of normal number, pliable, intact, and free of vegetations. The atrial and ventricular septa are free of defects.

The aorta follows its usual course and has no atherosclerotic changes. No vascular anomalies or aneurysms are identified. The venae cavae and pulmonary arteries are without thrombus or embolus.

Respiratory System

Right Lung Weight 300 grams

Left Lung Weight 330 grams

The tongue, strap muscles, and other anterior neck soft tissues have no hemorrhage. The hyoid bone and cartilaginous structures of the larynx and trachea are normally formed and without fracture. The cervical vertebrae are without displacement, hypermobility, or crepitus. No prevertebral soft tissue hemorrhage is apparent.

The lungs have the usual lobation. The pleurae are smooth and glistening. The lungs have mild anthracotic pigment. The lungs are slightly atelectatic. The parenchyma is pink-red and exudes minimal amounts of clear fluid on cut section. The lungs have no consolidation, hemorrhage, infarct, tumor, gross fibrosis, or enlargement of air spaces. The airways are unobstructed, lined by smooth, pink-tan mucosa, and contain no foreign materials.

Gastrointestinal System

The esophagus and gastroesophageal junction are unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 20 mL of grey-tan chyme containing pink fragments resembling meat, potato, and some vegetables without visible pills or pill residue. The gastric and duodenal mucosae are intact and unremarkable. The small and large intestines and appendix are unremarkable to inspection and palpation.

Liver

Liver Weight 1090 grams

The intact capsule is smooth and glistening. The parenchyma is red-brown and uniform without mass, hemorrhage, yellow discoloration, or palpable fibrosis. The gallbladder contains an estimated 5 mL of bile and no stones. Its mucosa is uniform, and the wall is not thickened.

Spleen

Spleen Weight 60 grams

The capsule is smooth and intact. The parenchyma is maroon, firm, and uniform.

Pancreas

The pancreas has a normal size, shape, and lobulated structure. The parenchyma is pink-tan, firm, and uniform.

Urinary

Right Kidney Weight 90 grams

Left Kidney Weight 80 grams

The kidneys have a normal shape and position. The cortical surfaces are smooth. The kidneys have the usual corticomedullary structure without tumors or cysts. The pelves and ureters are not dilated or thickened. The urinary bladder is empty. The mucosa is intact, and the bladder wall is not hypertrophied.

Reproductive

The prostate gland is of average size and is grossly unremarkable.

Endocrine

The thyroid gland is not enlarged, and the lobes are symmetrical. The parenchyma is uniform, firm, and red-brown. The adrenal glands have the usual size and shape. The cortices are thin, uniform, and yellow with no hemorrhage or tumor. The pituitary gland is not enlarged.

Neurologic

Brain Weight 1290 grams

The scalp is free of hemorrhage. The calvarium and base of the skull are normally configured and have no fractures. The dura mater is intact with no epidural or subdural hemorrhage.

The leptomeninges are glistening and transparent without underlying hemorrhage, exudate, or cortical contusions. The hemispheres are symmetrical and have a normal gyral pattern. No flattening of the gyri, narrowing of the sulci, midline

shift, or evidence of herniation is identified. The arteries at the base of the brain have no atherosclerotic changes or aneurysms.

Sections through the cerebral hemispheres have a uniform, intact cortical ribbon and uniform white matter. The basal ganglia, thalami, hippocampi, and other internal structures are symmetrical and without focal change. The ventricles are not enlarged, and the linings are smooth and glistening. Sections of the brainstem and cerebellum show an intact structure without focal lesions.

Immunologic System

No enlargement of the lymph nodes of the neck, chest, or abdomen is identified. The thymus is an appropriate size for the decedent's age and has purple-tan, lobulated parenchyma.

Musculoskeletal System

The musculoskeletal system is well-developed and free of congenital deformity. The clavicles, sternum, ribs, vertebrae, and pelvis are not fractured. The ribs are not brittle. The skeletal muscle is dark red and firm.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Microscopic Comment

SLIDE KEY

A1: Heart (left ventricle, right ventricle), liver

A2: Left lung (central), right lung (peripheral)

A3: Left kidney, right hippocampus

The sections are processed to the level of paraffin blocks only.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

According to the information received, this 23-year-old man was shot during an altercation with a security guard. He was transported to a local hospital where death was pronounced shortly after arrival.

The autopsy documented two gunshot wounds (one penetrating, one perforating). A projectile entered the right posterior forearm with a surrounding circumferential soot ring and a few gunpowder particles and perforated the right forearm without injury to the underlying bones or major vasculature. No projectile or projectile fragments were recovered in association with this wound. A projectile entered the left lower abdomen/groin and transected the left common iliac vein with extensive associated soft tissue hemorrhage and a blood collection within the abdominal cavity. A deformed, copper-colored, jacketed projectile is recovered in association with this wound. No indicators of range of fire are seen in association with the abdomen/groin wound. The two wounds may represent the path of a single projectile.

Postmortem toxicological analysis detected no ethanol (alcohol).

Based on the information received, autopsy findings, toxicology results, and circumstances surrounding the death, as currently understood, the cause of death is multiple gunshot wound(s). The manner of death is classified as homicide.

DIAGRAMS

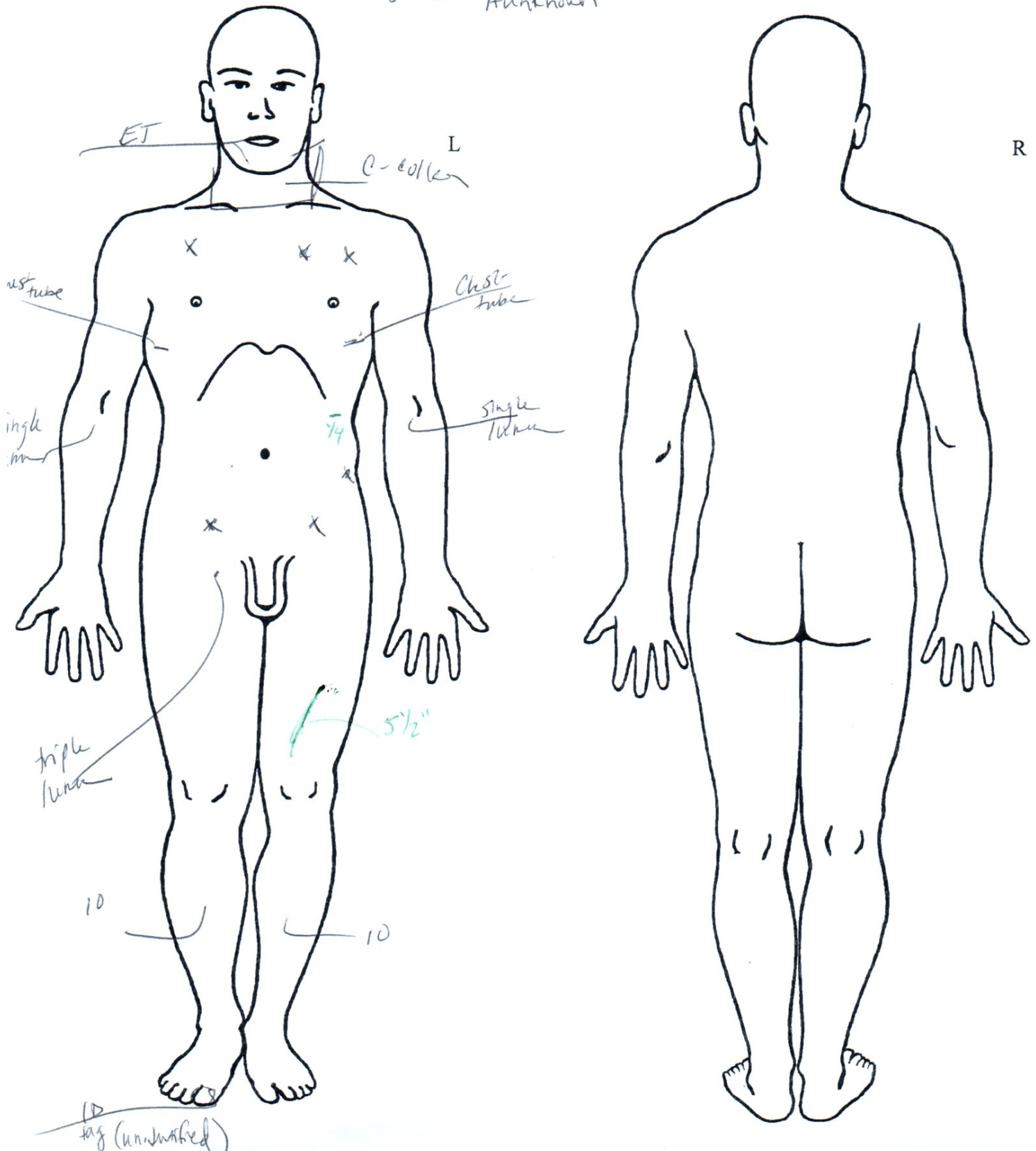
1. Adult MALE autopsy diagram
2. Body Diagram: Skeleton (Front/Back)
3. Body Diagram: Adult (Front/Back)

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Examined by JAT Date: 3/24/18

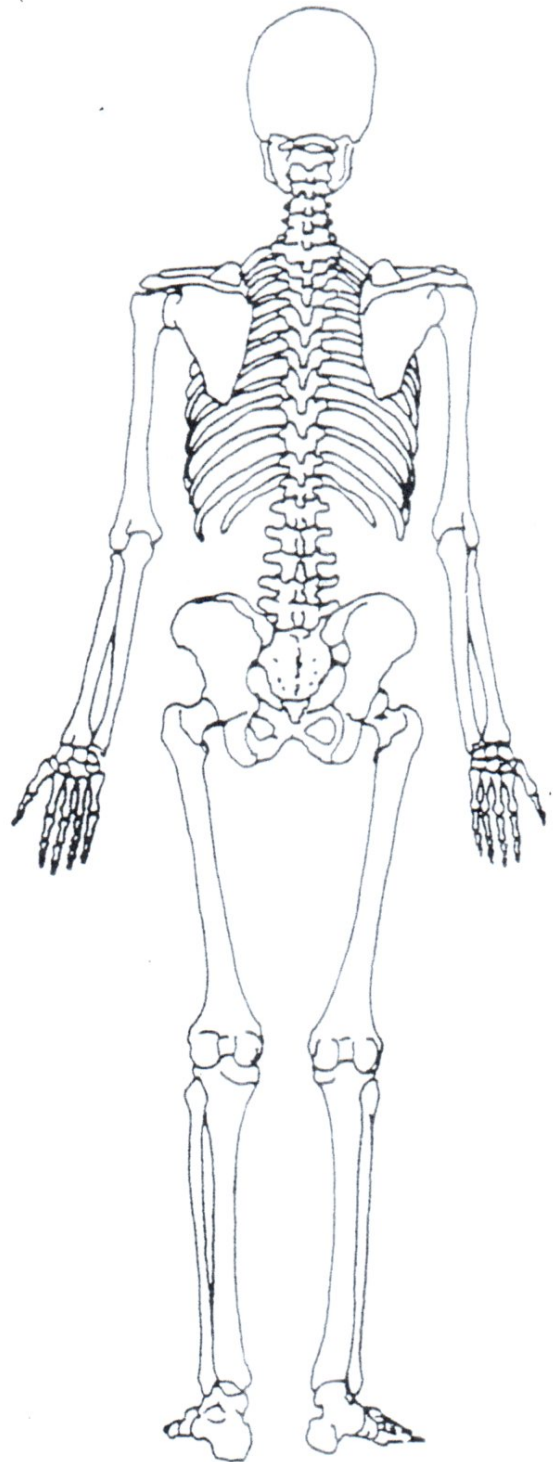
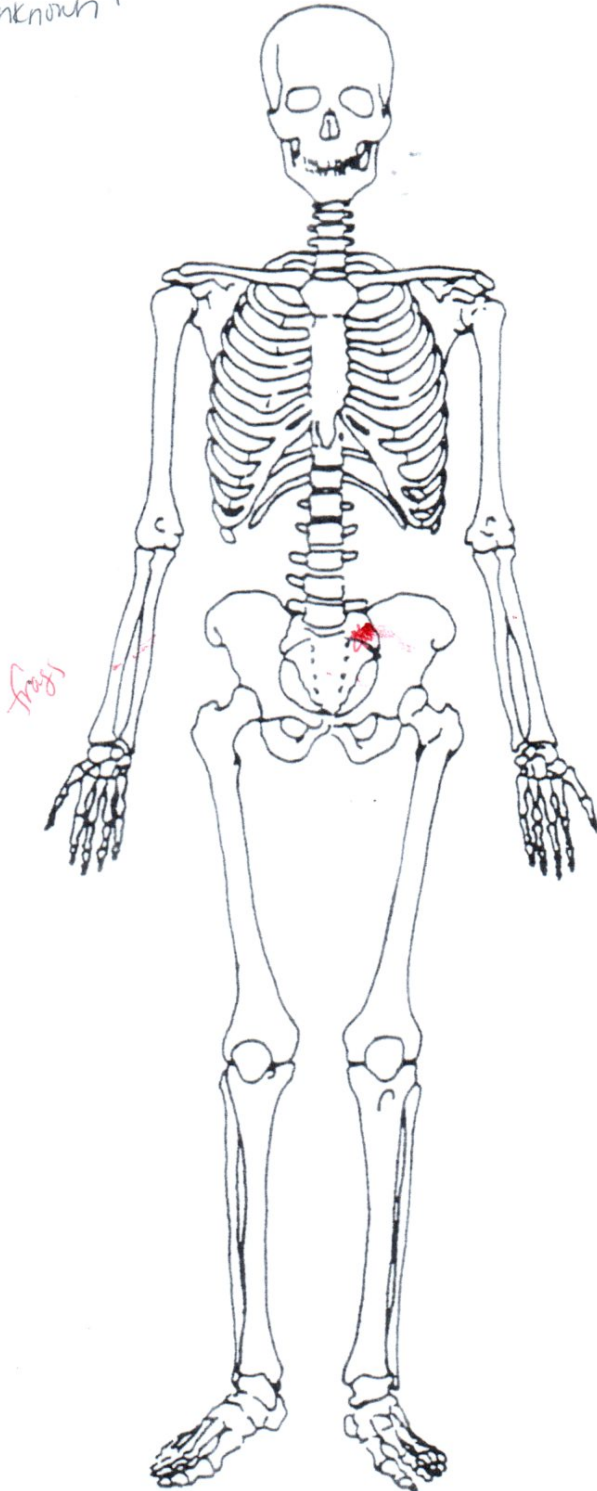
ADULT MALE AUTOPSY DIAGRAM

IDENTIFICATION: ID checked
unidentified at time of autopsy
Bag tag "Kemgan-Rad - Unknown"



"Kerrigan Road
Unknown"

BODY DIAGRAM: SKELETON (front/back)



This form may be photocopied.

B 18-4298

Examined by JAH Date: 9/24/18

ADULT MALE AUTOPSY DIAGRAM

IDENTIFICATION: ID checked
1D by photos after autopsy

